

1 **CLAIMS**

2 What is claimed is:

3 1. A computer implemented method of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor  
4 data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing  
5 system, the method comprising:

6 establishing a license database including a plurality of internet protocol addresses  
7 referencing user data processing systems on which the software application is licensed to  
8 execute;

9 obtaining the internet protocol address of the user data processing system using the  
10 vendor data processing system; and

11 if the internet protocol address is recorded in the license database, then transmitting  
12 the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing  
13 system and activating the application with the authorization code.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising if the internet protocol address is not  
2 recorded in the license database, then requesting a user of the user data processing system  
3 to transmit a receipt code to the vendor data processing system, and transmitting the  
4 authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing  
5 system after receiving the receipt code.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting to the user data processing  
2 system options for entry of a receipt code or an order form for the software application if  
3 the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of processing a payment by the  
2 user for the software application in response to the presented order form.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the license database  
2 includes:

3 identifying a number of available software application licenses corresponding to  
4 the user that are not referenced to a particular internet protocol address and user data  
5 processing system; and

10010236-1

6 if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then associating at  
7 least one of the available software application licenses with the internet protocol address  
8 and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user  
9 data processing system.

1 6. The method of claim 3, further comprising after establishing the license database,  
2 establishing a receipt code database including a plurality of users each associated with at  
3 least one software application license and if the receipt code is recorded in the receipt code  
4 database, then transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system  
5 to the user data processing system.

1 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of processing a payment includes  
2 accessing a financial institution data processing system for conducting a payment  
3 verification.

1 8. A system of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor data processing system  
2 for activating a software application on a user data processing system, the system  
3 comprising:  
4 means for associating a plurality of internet protocol addresses with user data  
5 processing systems on which the software application is licensed to execute;  
6 means for obtaining the internet protocol address from the user data processing  
7 system; and  
8 means for transmitting the authorization code to the user data processing system  
9 for activating the application where the internet protocol address is recorded in the license  
10 database.

1 9. The system of claim 8, further comprising a financial institution data processing  
2 system adapted to process a user payment for the software application in response to a  
3 vendor generated order form.

1 10. A computer implemented method of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor  
2 data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing  
3 system, the method comprising:

10010236-1

4 establishing a license database including a plurality of internet protocol addresses  
5 referencing user data processing systems on which the software application is licensed to  
6 execute;  
7 initiating installation of the software application in the user data processing system;  
8 obtaining the internet protocol address of the user data processing system using the  
9 vendor data processing system;  
10 if the internet protocol address is recorded in the license database, then transmitting  
11 the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing  
12 system; and  
13 if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then  
14 requesting a user of the user data processing system to transmit a receipt code to the  
15 vendor data processing system and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor  
16 data processing system to the user data processing system after receiving the receipt code.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising if the receipt code is not received, then  
2 presenting to the user data processing system for user authorization an order form for the  
3 software application.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of processing a payment by  
2 the user for the software application in response to the presented order form.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising after receiving the authorization code  
2 completing installation of the software application.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of establishing the license database  
2 includes:  
3 identifying a number of available software application licenses corresponding to  
4 the user that are not referenced to a particular internet protocol address and user data  
5 processing system; and  
6 if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then associating at  
7 least one of the available software application licenses with the internet protocol address  
8 and transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user  
9 data processing system.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising after obtaining the internet protocol  
2 address from the user data processing system:

3 if the internet protocol address is not recorded, then prior to presenting the order  
4 form to the user, performing steps (a) – (c):

5 (a) determining availability of at least one software application license  
6 corresponding to the user;

7 (b) if at least one license is available, then automatically transmitting the  
8 authorization code to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol  
9 address in the license database; and

10 (c) if at least one the license is not available, then presenting the order form for the  
11 software application to the user data processing system.

1 16. The method of claim 11, further comprising after establishing the license database,  
2 establishing a receipt code database including a plurality of users each associated with at  
3 least one software application license, and if the receipt code is recorded in the receipt  
4 code database, then transmitting the authorization code from the vendor data processing  
5 system to the user data processing system.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of establishing the receipt code database  
2 includes:

3 identifying a number of available software application licenses corresponding to  
4 the user that are not referenced to a particular receipt code; and  
5 if the receipt code is not recorded in the receipt code database, then associating at least one  
6 of the available software application licenses with the receipt code and transmitting the  
7 authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing  
8 system.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising after transmitting the receipt code to  
2 the vendor data processing system:

3 if the receipt code is not recorded, then prior to presenting the order form to the  
4 user, performing steps (a) – (c):

10010236-1

- 5           (a) determining availability of at least one software application license  
6 corresponding to the user;  
7           (b) if at least one license is available, then automatically transmitting the  
8 authorization code to the user data processing system and recording the internet protocol  
9 address in the license database and the receipt code in the receipt code database; and  
10          (c) if at least one the license is not available, then presenting the order form for the  
11 software application to the user data processing system.

1   19.    The method of claim 12, wherein the step of processing a payment includes  
2 accessing a financial institution data processing system for conducting a payment  
3 verification.

1   20.    A computer implemented method of obtaining an authorization code from a vendor  
2 data processing system for activating a software application on a user data processing  
3 system, the method comprising:

4           establishing a license database including a plurality of internet protocol addresses  
5 and associated software application identifiers of software applications licensed to execute  
6 on user data processing systems referenced by the internet protocol addresses;

7           initiating installation of the software application in the user data processing system;

8           obtaining the internet protocol address of the user data processing system using the  
9 vendor data processing system;

10          if the internet protocol address is recorded in the license database, then transmitting  
11 the authorization code from the vendor data processing system to the user data processing  
12 system; and

13          if the internet protocol address is not recorded in the license database, then  
14 requesting the user to transmit a receipt code to the vendor data processing system and  
15 presenting the user with the authorization code after receiving the receipt code.